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SUMMARY OF THE BULGARIAN PROVINCIAL PRESS

(5-11 May 1960)

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SUMMARY OF THE BULGARIAN PROVINCIAL PRESS

(5-11 May 1960)

PREFACE

The present summary is a report on the economic, political, military and sociological activities and developments in Bulgaria covering all available newspapers of the Bulgarian provincial press from 5-11 May 1960. All items, whether summaries, condensations or partial translations, reflect the specific and contextual meaning of the original text.

During this week the newspapers devote extended coverage to the U-2 incident. They carry editorials and feature articles on Krushchev's speeches on the subject and TASS press releases on world reaction to it. The papers also carry articles on the anniversaries of the liberation of Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

Appendix A of this summary lists graphic materials.

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I. ECONOMIC

A. Manufacturing Industries

The vessel "Vasil Kolarov", a product of the Ship Building Yards in Varna, is the third of a series being constructed. A total of ten will be exported to the USSR.

This vessel is capable of a speed of 13 knots. It is intended principally for group excursions abroad. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 7 May 1960, page 3)

B. Transportation and Communications

It can now be positively stated that Varna will have television by 1962 at the latest. The first Sofia-Varna relay station, to be located on Botev Peak is to be completed by the end of 1961.

There will not be a television transmitter originating programs at Varna like that in Sofia, however, as the expense of such installations is prohibitive. The same is true of other cities in Bulgaria. But Varna will enjoy the advantage, as a resort city, of a special mobile unit, which can televise live programs at theaters, the opera, other spectacles and athletic events. Tests have shown that reception will be possible as far away as Tolbukhin, Balchik, Kavarna, Provadiya and in the environs of the city of Varna.

Some 20 television sets have already been registered in Varna. Experimental work on receiving Bucharest programs has been done. To date, with special antenna arrangements, audio reception has been successful, and it is hoped that the visual image can be brought in as well after further experimentation. Soviet data indicates that Italian, French and even English programs have been received in the Soviet Union.

There will be about twelve radio relay television stations in Bulgaria. These will carry Sofia programs to the whole of the country. Twenty channels will be used. The first will serve Varna. This means that television receivers purchased by Varna residents must be sensitive to Channel One. The programs from Soviet stations will be received in Sofia by means of the same type of relay hookup, as well as those from other people's democracies and some Western European countries. Such reception is expected to be perfected by 1965.

Bulgaria is already producing its own television sets with 43 centimeter screens. The price will be about 2,000 leva each. Color sets will cost about 6,000 leva each. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 7 May 1960, page 2)

There are at present 122 settlements in Burgas Okrug with radio facilities. They have 24,006 radio loudspeakers. By the end of April, the number of radio receiving sets registered in the okrug totaled 34,310. A year ago there were but 24,948. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 7 May 1960, page 2)

By the end of the first quarter of 1960, Khaskovo Okrug has a total of 24,814 radio receivers, 11,444 of which were in

villages. Eighty villages had radio facilities, including 24,135 radio loudspeakers, of which 13,398 were in villages. More than 35 plants, enterprises, mines, construction sites, hospitals, cultural clubs and other establishments have their own radio broadcasting services. (Khaskovska Tribuna, Khaskovo, 7 May 1960, page 2)

C. Construction and Construction Materials

The new dam which is to be built near the village of Vinitsa will form a lake 17 kilometers in length and 18,000 decares in surface area. The retaining wall which will hold back the 313,000,000 cubic meters of water will be 400 meters long, 320 meters wide at the base, and 54 meters high. It will serve to irrigate 24 Farm Workers' Cooperatives. Water will flow from the base of Mount Preslav to the plain near the city of Preslav and south of Kolarovgrad through 7 kilometers of tunnels. The total length of irrigation ditches will be about 390 kilometers. There will be 17 pumping stations. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 10 May 1960, page 1)

Work on expansion of the Ceramics Plant (Keramichen zavod) at the Razdelna Railroad Station has been begun. To date the capacity of the plant has been 22,000,000 bricks per annum. This was a seasonal enterprise dependent upon atmospheric conditions. After the expansions has been completed, modern Soviet vacuum presses will be used in preparing the raw bricks. An automatic feeder of German manufacture will load the raw bricks into handcars. They will be dried in tunnels, whereby year-round work will be made possible. Housing for 120 workers is being constructed at the plant. A highway is to be built from Beloslav to the plant, and a railroad spur will be run from Razdelna Railroad Station to it. When the expansion of the plant has been completed, its capacity will be 50,000,000 bricks per annum. It will be able to double its production within the next few years. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 5 May 1960, page 1)

D. General Economic

Vessels docking at the port of Varna on the eve of May 1 included: the Bulgarian ship "Khr. Smirneniski", bringing more than 2,700 tons of equipment and metal from the USSR; the Italian vessel "Emilio", bringing 2,500 tons of ore from Albania; the Greek ship "Nikos", taking on 1,510 tons of Bulgarian merchandise bound for Italian ports; and the Bulgarian vessel "Dimitur Kondov", bringing 651 tons of high grade steel, pipe and electric motors from the Soviet Union. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 5 May 1960, page 1)

On May 6 the Bulgarian vessel "Blagoy Kasabov" loaded 232 tons of electrical materials, diesel engines and other Bulgarian goods for shipment to Albania. The Greek vessel "Atinay" took on 118 tons of Bulgarian calcinated soda for transport to Venice, Italy. The Italian freighter "Fayto" is loading Bulgarian

manganese ore intended for Italy. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 7 May 1960, page 1)

On 9 May 1960 the Bulgarian vessel "Dimitur Kondov" brought 555 tons of high grade steel, synthetic rubber and electric cable from Odessa. (Narodno Delo, Varna, 10 May 1960, page 1)

II. THE GOVERNMENT

A. Violation of State Discipline

Great success has been achieved in Khaskovo Okrug since the reorganization of the state administration in 1959. However, some serious shortcomings have been permitted by the working people of the okrug. "The work of managements, particularly in the TKZS, has tended to represent a distortion of state policies 'to the benefit of the farms themselves.' Localist trends and attitudes have been evidenced, and the larger interests ignored. This is particularly noticeable in the planning operations at TKZS."

"Many TKZS chairmen are seriously departing from the people's economic plan. Several forms are seen: firstly, production indices for various crops, as established by the State Planning Commission and the Okrug People's Soviet, are being ignored. For example, the Farm Workers' Cooperative at the village of Lyubimets should, according to plan, sell 350 tons of baby cucumbers to the state, and that at Kharmanli has pledged 140 tons. However, neither farm plans to plant this crop."

"Many farms have cut down on their plans. The TKZS at the village of Biser should sell 50 tons of small cucumbers, while it has planted enough to provide only 30 tons." Such plan reductions have been made by many farms in connection with for production. Such reductions are frequently the cause for non-fulfillment of the export plan. This means that needed raw materials are not provided for Bulgarian industry, and the people's economy as a whole is prevented from importing needed agricultural and industrial machinery.

"Another gross violation of state discipline is the falsification of yield figures for agricultural crops called for in the plan, for the purpose of planting smaller areas to such crops than would be reasonable. The result is that the state plan is doomed to failure in advance. This practice involves selfdeception, and lies to both state organs and the cooperative farmers."

"State discipline is also being ignored in the mischanneling of goods rightfully destined for the state purchasing organizations." This has been extensively done with lamb. "Not a single cooperative farm has fulfilled its plan in this connection. Yet all sold meat on the free market."

Such cases of violation of state discipline indicate the lack of conscientious regard for state interests and the obligations inherent in the people's economic plan. "The Okrug BCP Committee

and the Okrug People's Soviet will no longer tolerate such violations and railroading outside the proper procedures to be followed. They will make every effort to implement strict planning and contractual discipline to serve the interests of all the working people in Khaskovo Okrug." (Khasdovska Tribuna, Khaskovo, 7 May 1960, page 1)

III. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

A. Mass-Political Work in Burgas Okrug

Report Delivered at the Plenum of the Burgas Okrug BCP
Committed By Its Secretary, G. Tomov, on Mass Political
Work in the Okrug

Since 1 January 1960, the Burgas Okrug BCP Committee and the city and obshtina Party committees in the okrug have done a vast amount of work in explaining the 1960 people's economic plan to the people. Party, trade union and cooperative meetings have been held, talks were given to brigades, workshops, teams and site crews. Agitators have received instruction. More than 200 meetings were held in the okrug, and reports were delivered at them by members of the Okrug BCP Committee. Explanations were given of the Bulgarian budget for 1960, Todor Zhivkov's speech to the Fourth Session of the People's Assembly, the appeal of the CC of the BCP to communists and other working people in Bulgaria, proceedings at the Fourth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, etc.

In the field of rural economy, the explanatory work carried out by the Party has been of special significance. Its purpose was to promote the participation of the cooperative farmers in irrigation construction, the cultivation of new land, prompt completion of agricultural work, the increasing of herds and their productivity, etc. "However, we must admit that agitational work in this field has not been active enough. Meetings have been held, talks given, and agitators instructed. Materials have been published in the okrug newspaper as well as local bulletins and journals. But we have failed to effect the complete mobilization of the strength of the cooperative farmers during the winter months. In some cases we had even less success than during the previous winter."

Success in explanatory work at enterprises and farms was especially limited. Last year nine Farm Workers' Cooperatives failed to sign socialist competition contracts. Not a single one of these contracts was signed by any of their brigades or units. Competition was neglected during the winter months on many farms.

"Our political work suffers from a serious weakness. The proper publicity is not being given to the need for competition."

Our mass political work leaves much to be desired even now. We should concentrate on the communist education of the working people, and cultivate in them the new attitude toward state and socialist property and labor. We must combat remnants from the past in the minds of the people, as well as such harmful

tendencies as those toward waste, theft, laziness and avoidance of material production work, localist sentiment, and violation of state and Party discipline. The training of agitators in dealing with individuals is inadequate, as is the help rendered to such agitators by the okrug Party apparatus.

Despite the considerable achievements in political agitation during 1959 and early in 1960, we cannot claim that the wise words of the Party are daily reaching all our working people. "Too often explanatory work touches those citizens who are already the most active politically. It sometimes happen that the very same persons hear the same talk on several different occasions -- meetings, study group lectures, and instruction sessions. A large percentage of the working people are meanwhile outside the scope of the political action entirely. These are the strata of the population which most need such explanatory influences -- live-stock breeders, mechanizers in the rural economy, construction workers, and a certain percentage of the young people and minority groups."

Burgas currently has a total of 13,780 agitators. Of these, 55% are grown men, 28% women, and 17% are young people. Broken down by organizational membership, the structure is as follows: 54% -- BCP members; 8% -- members of the Agrarian Union; 17% -- Komsomol members; and 21% -- no Party affiliation.

A considerable number of the primary Party committees are not doing adequate political work. Many fail badly in showing initiative. They commit the error of awaiting instructions from higher organs. Frequently the shortcomings and errors in the work are evident to all, and decisions to correct them are made. However, these decisions are then forgotten, rather than being implemented in practice, and work continues as previously. An example is Gulubets village. At the end of 1959 a meeting of all agitators in the Party committee region was held. Speakers detailed the shortcomings and existing weaknesses. It was expected that the Party committee would correct them. However, at the end of February 1960, three or four months later, a second such meeting was held. Almost exactly the same failings and lags were reported. Gulubets is not alone in this respect. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 10 May 1960, page 2)

IV. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

A. Antireligious Propaganda in Burgas Okrug

In the past few years, antireligious propaganda in Burgas Okrug has been much intensified. Many lectures have been given, and circles for the study of popular science and atheism have been sponsored by the Fatherland Front and the Komsomol. Thus it can be seen that antireligious propaganda is not being neglected in the okrug. However, the success achieved does not meet the current demands in connection with the communist edification of the working people. Many weaknesses in atheistic propaganda

which decrease its effectiveness have been permitted.

Such matters as the origins of Christianity and Islam, religion under the capitalist and socialist systems, etc., are analyzed in the atheistic lectures given. Lecturers usually conclude with suggested measures for combatting religious beliefs. It is evident that a general lecture taking only an hour does not suffice to clarify the questions discussed completely, and, due to lack of time, lecturers must touch hastily on certain points. This sketchy treatment often bores listeners.

Lectures too frequently deal only with past problems, and leave current problems unmentioned. We criticize the Bible, with which most of our listeners are relatively unfamiliar, and we discuss the origins of Christianity and other religions, which are matters remote from them. However, we fail to take up the widespread forms of religious error, such as superstition, prophesy, dream interpretations, etc. We fail to criticize the observance of religious holidays with sufficient force. Talks with seventh graders in the village of Kameno revealed that they do not attend church, as they are not believers in religion. However, in regard to dream interpretations, the situation is different. Two boasted that they could tell from dreams when they would fail in their school work.

Such examples indicate that teachers must link the lessons they teach more systematically with atheistic explanations. Question and answer periods on religious subjects should be held, antireligious excursions planned, etc. Lecturers' groups should be expanded. For example, agricultural and religious problems should be dealt with by agronomers, physicians should speak on medicine and religion, physicists and chemists should explain Biblical miracles scientifically, etc.

Local leaders are frequently ignorant of the best forms of antireligious work. It is easier for them to invite trained lecturers from elsewhere to "crush" religious beliefs in organized meetings. Such leaders believe that in arranging such lectures, they are fulfilling their responsibilities. They forget the most important aspect, which is work with individuals.

It should be noted that many regard religion as having to do only with elderly people. It is believed by these that the passing of the older generation will involve the disappearance of religion. But older people and other believers do not live in glass cases. Their lives affect others, teaching the fear of God and the threat of hell even to children with whom they come in contact.

The means best suited to the revelation of the true nature of religious dogma is to combat the old practices by the introduction of new socialist holidays. The First of May and the New Year, replacing Christmas and Easter, are such. Other religious traditions should be replaced in a similar manner. In many villages in Burgas Okrug the Komsomol has instigated the enthusiastic celebration of Komsomol weddings. Gifts from the Komsomol are given on the birth of infants, and the organization helps in

the celebration of birthdays rather than the traditional saints' name days. This measure should be intensified, as they occupy spare time constructively, teach collectivity, and otherwise lead young people away from religion. Weddings, which represent such important moments in the lives of young people, should be celebrated with nonreligious songs and games. The traditional village fairs, which were based upon saints' days, should be dedicated to the patrons of the Farm Workers' Cooperatives, usually heroes of the struggle against fascism. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 5 May 1960, page 3)

B. Atheistic Lecture in Turkish Village

"The village of Trem is entirely populated by Turks. The majority of the cooperative farmers, both men and women, are still under the influence of Islam." In view of this fact, the obshtina Party committee recently organized an atheistic meeting. Mustafa Khasanov read a paper on the origins and nature of Islam. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 5 May 1960, page 2)

C. Stowaway Apprehended

Border guards Dimitur Mladenov and Ivan Kotlarov and worker Ilcho Baychev detained a politically misguided youngster attempting to betray his country by stowing away on a West German vessel. He was apprehended at midnight on 24 April in a fishing vessel bound for the foreign ship. (Chernomorski Front, Burgas, 7 May 1960, page 3)

V. MILITARY

A. Identification of Commissioned Officers in the Armed Forces

An article carried in this newspaper on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the defeat of Germany was written by Lieutenant Colonel (Podpolkovnik) Iv. Ivanov of the "G. Dimitrov" People's Higher Military Artillery School (VNVAU "G. Dimitrov"). (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 7 May 1960, page 4)

K. Neshev, head of the Kolarovgrad Okrug Administration of the Ministry of the Interior, and Major General (General-mayor) T. Balkanski, commanding officer of the Kolarovgrad Garrison, were among the officials who reviewed the May Day demonstrations in Kolarovgrad. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 5 May 1960, page 1)

Appendix A

Graphic Illustrations

- (1) Photograph of the valley to be flooded by the waters of the "Vinitsa" Dam. The shaded area on the right indicates the location of the proposed earthen dike. (Kolarovgradska Borba, Kolarovgrad, 10 May 1960, page 1)

Appendix B

List of Sources

Chernomorski Front
Khaskovska Tribuna
Kolarovgradska Borba
Narodno Delo

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